Reviewer's report

Title: Meta-analysis of tumor necrosis factor alpha -308 polymorphism and knee osteoarthritis risk

Version: 5 Date: 1 September 2014

Reviewer: John Loughlin

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions.
1. Provide in the abstract and in the results section the p-value for the allelic association. At present the OR is provided but looking at the CI I suspect the p-value is very modest.

2. Expand on and explain to the reader why you have chosen to do an AA versus GG comparison and a GA versus GG comparison. I asked for this in the original review and the authors responded that these represent 'homozygous genetic model' and 'heterozygous genetic model'. But in their original, and still in the revision, the authors have already examined recessive (AA vs. GA+GG) and dominant (AA + GA vs. GG) models. I'm therefore unsure as to what an analysis of AA vs GG and GA vs GG add. After all, these comparisons don't actually exist in reality, whereas the allelic, dominant and recessive models do. If the authors want to include them, then justify them biologically to the reader.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests